

CYPRAEIDAE FROM NEW ZEALAND

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The recent discovery of two true Cypraeidae living in northernmost New Zealand, viz. *Erosaria tomlini* Schilder (Powell 1965, Rec. Auck. Inst. Mus. 6: 164) and *Lyncina vitellus* Linnaeus (see Powell, this issue, p. 185) provokes a review of cowrie species which have been erroneously credited to the molluscan fauna of New Zealand.

The first species mentioned as coming from New Zealand is the Central Pacific "*Cypraea*" *aurantium* Gmelin, quoted as *aurora* by Lamarck (1822, Anim.sans vert. 7:382) which indication of habitat has been repeated by Horst & Schepman (1899, Mus.Hist.Nat. Pays-Bas 13:200). The second species is the Hawaiian *C. tessellata* Swainson mentioned from New Zealand by Reeve (1845, Conch.Icon., vol. 3 Cypraea No. 53).

According to Frauenfeld (1869, Verh.Zool.Bot.Ges.Wien 19, Abh.p. 864) the frigate "Novara" brought the following *Cypraea* from "Auckland": *arabica* Linn., *lynx* Linn., *vitellus* Linn., *obvelata* Lam., *caputserpentis* Linn., and *erosa* Linn. (All are common Indopacific species, except *obvelata* which is restricted to south-eastern Polynesia). The original specimens now preserved in the museum of Vienna have been examined by the writer personally: Frauenfeld's determinations were correct, but the habitat evidently is false. In this museum the writer has discovered some more specimens also labelled as collected at Auckland by the "Novara", but evidently Frauenfeld could not determine them: they belong to *subviridis* Reeve (South-western Pacific), *errones* Linn. and *asellus* Linn. (both Indopacific).

All these "discoveries" have been rejected by New Zealand conchologists, but Hutton (1878, Journ. de Conchyl., 26:25) claimed to have seen a real *Cypraea* from "Baie des Iles" (Bay of Islands) in the Colonial Museum: he thought it to belong possibly to the Indopacific *Cypraea punctata* Linnaeus. Later on, Hutton (1880, Manual N.Z.Moll., p.66) described the shell, but doubted it to be *punctata*, and at last (1884, Proc. Linn.Soc.N.S.Wales 9:935) totally rejected the occurrence of *punctata* in New Zealand. Then Suter (1901, Trans.N.Z.Inst. 34:214) pleaded the determination to be correct, but the indicated habitat to be false.

In his famous monograph on "*Cypraea*" Hidalgo (1906/07, Mem.Ac. Cienc.Madrid, 25) doubted the correctness of the indications of Lamarck (*aurantium*) and of Reeve (*tessellata*), but he adopted those of Frauenfeld (six species) and of Hutton (*punctata*); besides, he mentioned the Indo-Pacific *mauritiana* Linn. and *annulus* Linn. as living in New Zealand.

The writer saw some more species labelled "New Zealand" in various collections: in the public museums of Berlin: *depressa* Gray (leg. Kriiper); Hamburg (now destroyed): *tessellata* and *walkeri* Sowerby; Vienna: *childreni* Gray (leg. Reischek) *arabica*, *annulus*, and *cribraria* Linn. (collectors unknown); Prague: *tessellata* and *limacina* Lamarck (both coll. Strickland); and in the private collection of E. de C. Lancaster (Lyme Regis): *maculifera* Schilder.

All these data concerning nineteen species evidently are false! Really a sad sight of the carelessness of conchologists with regard to indication of habitat!

The two recently discovered species *vitellus* and *tomlini* are the only true cowries living in New Zealand, though one would expect *caputserpentis* and *erosa* too.

The New Zealand *Ellatrvia memorata* Finlay, 1927 (= *E. maoriensis* Mestayer, 1927), which is hardly separable from the Australian *Ellatrvia merces* Iredale, 1924, must be separated from the true Cypraeidae: it belongs to the family Triviidae.